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Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period

Addendum

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat hereby transmits to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its 56th regular meeting as part of its work for the period 2013–2015.

* HSP/GC/25/1.

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Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its work during the intersessional period

Summary

At its 56th regular meeting, held on 8 April 2015, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) adopted its report for the period 2013–2015 for submission to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for its consideration.

I. Introduction

1. The Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, the intersessional subsidiary body of the Governing Council, held its 56th regular meeting on 8 April 2015.

II. 56th regular meeting, 8 April 2015

2. At the 56th regular meeting, the Executive Director underscored the importance to the Programme of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) that were scheduled to be held at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi in April 2015. He expressed his appreciation to the members of the Committee for their hard work in preparing for the twenty-fifth session, particularly in drafting and discussing the draft resolutions for submission to the Governing Council for its consideration. He provided an overview of his recent missions to Germany, Japan, Rwanda and Sudan and the visit by the Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, to the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa. He highlighted the extensive efforts of UN-Habitat in the deployment of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as well as the new enterprise resource planning project, "Umoja", the implementation of which was expected to commence on 1 June 2015 as planned.

3. For its part, the Committee, through the Chair, approved the addendum to the note by the secretariat on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the intersessional period (HSP/GC/25/3/Add.1), containing in its annex five draft resolutions prepared by the Committee, for onward transmission to the Governing Council for its consideration.

4. The Committee was informed that the Bureau of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session had only one member, namely the Rapporteur. Certain members had expressed the view that the rules of procedure of the Governing Council did not provide clear guidance on the replacement of Bureau members during the intersessional period. The Committee discussed the rules of procedure and recommended that the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session review them with respect to the replacement of Bureau members during the intersessional period. The Committee also discussed the options available according to the rules of procedure for the opening of the twenty-fifth session, including by the Rapporteur. The Committee advised the Executive Director to provide information to the members of the Governing Council on the options for opening the session, including the possibility of the Rapporteur opening the session in the absence of the President and in accordance with the rules of procedure.

5. In addition, the Committee reviewed its work during 2015 on the UN-Habitat governance review process, co-chaired by Mr. Akin Oyateru, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to UN-Habitat, and Mr. Tobias Glucksman, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to UN-Habitat (see HSP/GC/25/2/Add.1). The Committee took note of the substantial progress made in the subcommittee meetings and during informal discussions between members on the issue and many representatives expressed optimism about making a recommendation to the Governing Council in that regard.

6. The Chair introduced the report on the work of the subcommittees in the intersessional period.

7. Representatives took the opportunity to commend UN-Habitat in relation to its activities in Rwanda following a field visit to that country undertaken by members of the Committee on 23 and 24 February 2015. They urged UN-Habitat to replicate such activities in other countries upon request and to strengthen information regarding field activities.